

What is claimed is:

1. A memory device carrying a set of instructions which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

- receiving user information;
- unlocking certain doors of a dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;
- receiving mode information identifying a locate mode;
- receiving information identifying an item to be located;
- flashing a display positioned on a shelf within the cabinet with the number of items held by that shelf which are to be located;
- receiving a log off instruction; and
- locking the unlocked doors.

2. The memory device of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of receiving patient information.

3. A memory device carrying a set of instructions which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

- receiving user information;
- unlocking certain doors of a dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;
- receiving patient information;
- receiving mode information identifying a locate mode;
- receiving information identifying an item to be located;
- flashing a display positioned on a shelf within the cabinet with the number of items held by that shelf which are to be located;
- receiving information selecting a compartment;
- zeroing the display in response to the selection of a compartment;
- receiving the number of items taken from the selected compartment;
- displaying the number of items taken on the display;
- receiving a log off instruction; and
- locking the unlocked doors.

4. A memory device carrying a set of instructions which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

- receiving user information;

unlocking certain doors of a dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;
receiving information identifying a query mode;
receiving information identifying an item for which information is sought;
displaying information for the identified item;
receiving a log off instruction; and
locking the unlocked doors.

5. The memory device of claim 4 additionally comprising the step of receiving patient information.

6. A memory device carrying a set of instructions which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

receiving user information;
unlocking certain doors of the dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;
receiving patient information;
receiving information identifying a query mode;
receiving information identifying an item for which information is sought;
displaying information for the identified item;
receiving information selecting a compartment;
receiving information identifying the number of items taken from the selected compartment;
displaying the number of items taken on a display;
receiving a log off instruction; and
locking the unlocked doors.